rotra Committee and has also introduced a senior grade for Readers. The total number of effective grades in Universities and Colleges including that of Professor of Eminence now becomes 7. The teachers' organisations have been expressing dissatisfaction against increase in the number of grades.

Strengthening of National Highways

1955. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan allocation for strengthening of existing national highways and creation of new national highways during the Seventh Five Year Plan in the entire country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has forwarded a proposal for the conversion of 11 State highways into national highway; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Seventh Plan outlay includes the provision of Rs. 891.75 crores for the development of existing and new National Highways for the entire country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, owing to financial stringency and other priority considerations, it is not possible at present to declare new National Highways in Maharashtra.

National Highways

1956. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new national highways undertaken during the Seventh Five Year Plan in the whole country;

(b) what is the total length of new national highways undertaken in Maharashtra during Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether there are any proposals from the Government of Maharashtra in this regard;

(d) whether backward regions like Marathwada or Vidarbha will be given priority while creating new national highways; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) On account of certain priority considerations, following six roads were included in the National Highways network in various States in the 7th Five Year Plan, which incidentally do not include any new NH in the Maharashtra State.

S. No.	H. No.	Total Length (in Kms.)	
1	NE-1	93	
2	37A	23	
3	47A	6	
4	54 (extension)	147	
5	54A	9	183 Km.
6	54B	27	
	TOTAL	305	